

# ***Expedition Little Bighorn***

Spend a day learning at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument with your students! The National Park Service invites you, your class, and parent chaperones to experience this program for students grades 4 to 8.

***“Expedition Little Bighorn”*** is ideal for classes desiring an in-depth educational experience. The goal of Expedition Little Bighorn is to teach students and teacher alike, about the Indian and Soldier way of life.

Through a hands on tipi raising, a study of both Indian and soldier equipment and group discussions; soldier accoutrements, horse equipment, as well as bugle call formations by students-a comparison and contrasted investigation of lifeways will be examined and discovered.

After a vigorous day of students and teachers participating in ***“Expedition Little Bighorn”***; lifeways of people 139 years ago the program is designed to have an outcome of:

- A better understanding of the Battle of the Little Bighorn
- Content gains in lifestyle history of both soldiers and Indians
- Increased tolerance and appreciation of other cultures and eras
- Bonding with classmates, teachers and others
- Greater confidence and positive experience outdoors
- An enduring appreciation and commitment to parks and history

**This area memorializes the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry and the Sioux and Cheyenne in one of the Indians last armed efforts to preserve their way of life. Here on June 25 and 26 of 1876, 263 soldiers, including Lt. Col. George A. Custer and attached personnel of the U.S. Army, died fighting several thousand Lakota, and Cheyenne warriors.**

Explore one of the Nation’s most famous battles in American history, the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Let Little Bighorn be your classroom and Park Rangers be your teachers- for a day.

Contact Chief of Interpretation, Ken Woody for more information about this day event. Financial assistance may be available for fuel costs for bus transportation.

## **Days Itinerary (Amphitheater)**

**25 minute orientation film titled, “Triumph and Tragedy Along the Little Bighorn,” shown to class prior to arrival**

Class arrives: Ranger(s) and group introduction

### **Introduction to Soldiers life**

- Each student assigned a bio of actual soldier in the 7<sup>th</sup> cavalry. Companies assigned, kepis (caps) handed out, wooden replica Springfield carbines assigned and horse colors given.
- Bugle Calls- students learn formations for each call
- Horse equipment explained-each student given a turn to carry McClellan saddle a short distance and placed on wooden frame.
- Student taught commands and how to climb unto saddle with Springfield wooden rifle.
- Students place soldier tents up and other equipment explained and handled.

Finish by having students read soldiers self- biographies handed out at beginning of program of there outcome in the battle.

(Bugle Call for Mess Hall)

### **Introduction to the Plains Indian life**

- Each student assigned a bio of actual warrior or Indian woman in the battle.
- Tribal differences in tipis using miniature models and maps showing different plains tribes. Role of the women, men and children in a household.
- Hands on set up of a Lakota/Cheyenne/Arapaho (same pattern and setup) tipi. Children and teachers assigned to tipi poles, cover pegs and pins.
- Hands on set up of a Crow tipi (different pattern and setup). Children and teachers assigned to tipi poles, cover pegs and pins.
- Hands on set up of furnishings in the tipi, including tipi liner. Handle furnishings and compare and contrast needs and wants of Indian people to todays needs and wants in homes today.
- Specific discussions on horse equipment and gear.

Finish by having children read Indian self-biographies handed out at beginning of program of their outcome in the battle.